

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Order Instituting Investigation into
Implementation of Assembly Bill 970 Regarding
the Identification of Electric Transmission and
Distribution Constraints, Actions to Resolve
Those Constraints, and Related Matters Affecting
the Reliability of Electric Supply.

Investigation 00-11-001
(Filed November 2, 2001)

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE'S RULING
AND NOTICE OF FURTHER PREHEARING CONFERENCE**

A further prehearing conference (PHC) will be held in this proceeding to determine the scope and schedule for additional evidentiary hearings to evaluate transmission constrained areas on the electric system. The PHC will be held at 10:00 a.m., on December 19, 2001, at the Commission Courtroom, State Office Building, 505 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco, California. I anticipate that the PHC will continue into the afternoon.

I am retaining the existing service list in this proceeding. Those appearing for the first time at the PHC may be added to the list by filling out an appearance form.

As I stated in earlier rulings, not all transmission planning issues can be addressed at once because of limited time and resource availability. We are in the process of evaluating Path 15 and Valley Rainbow lines through separate applications for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN.) In Phase 2 of this proceeding, we have completed an examination of the need for

transmission upgrades for a Southern California-Southwest link in this proceeding (see Decision 01-10-070) and have completed evidentiary hearings regarding the economic need for the Miguel-Mission and Imperial Valley Substation upgrades. I plan to hold two weeks of evidentiary hearings in February, 2002 to address additional high priority transmission issues. The purpose of the PHC will be to specifically delineate the scope and schedule for these hearings.

At the July 10, 2001 PHC, we discussed several transmission constrained areas identified by parties to this proceeding, including Path 26, San Francisco-Peninsula area and the Tehachapi area. As a result of those discussions, I directed Pacific Gas and Electric Company to present an up-to-date status report on the Jefferson-Martin (San Francisco-Peninsula) and Greater Bay Area projects to consider at this upcoming PHC. I also requested the Independent System Operator to report on the status of its evaluation of Path 26. In addition, I directed Ridgetop and Southern California Edison Company to report on the response to their letter to potential developers in the Techachapi area, and to examine the allocation of benefits of a line upgrade to developers as well as ratepayers.¹ These updates should be provided in the PHC statements requested below.

This information will assist us in determining which projects should be examined in greater detail during the February hearings. There may be other projects that the Commission should consider, and interested parties are encouraged to identify those in their PHC statements. The hearings in February

¹ See Administrative Law Judge's Ruling Regarding Fall Hearings in Phase 2, July 19, 2001.

may initiate a CPCN process for one or more transmission projects, may address generic ratepayer/economic valuation issues, or other topics, as appropriate.

The December 19, 2001 PHC will be conducted similar to the ones held on March 13, and July 10, 2001. After some preliminaries, we will take a break and the Energy Division will coordinate a meeting among interested PHC attendees to discuss the projects to be evaluated, and develop a list of priorities for my consideration during the PHC.

Respondents and interested parties should submit PHC statements addressing scheduling and scoping issues for the next set of hearings. These statements are to be filed at the Commission's Docket Office and copies sent to me electronically and via U.S. mail on or before December 13, 2001.² Parties submitting PHC statements should also send electronic copies to all parties on the service list that have provided e-mail addresses, and bring 30 extra hard copies to distribute at the PHC (hard copy service is not required).

The current service list for this proceeding is available on the Commission's web page, www.cpuc.ca.gov. To obtain an up-to-date service list of electronic mail addresses:

- On the "Legal Documents" bar choose "Service Lists."
- Scroll through the "Index of Service Lists" to the number for this proceeding (or click "edit," "find," type in I0011001 and click "find next").

² Send hard copies to me at P.O. Box 210, Volcano, CA 95689. Send electronic mail to me at meg@cpuc.ca.gov.

- To view and copy the electronic addresses for a service list, download the comma-delimited file, and copy the column containing the electronic addresses.

Dated November 29, 2001, at San Francisco, California.

/s/ MEG GOTTSTEIN (by ang)

Meg Gottstein
Administrative Law Judge

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that I have by mail, and by electronic mail, to the parties to which an electronic mail address has been provided, this day served a true copy of the original attached Administrative Law Judge's Ruling and Notice of Further Prehearing Conference on all parties of record in this proceeding or their attorneys of record.

Dated November 29, 2001, at San Francisco, California.

/s/ JACQUELINE GORZUCH
Jacqueline Gorzoch

N O T I C E

Parties should notify the Process Office, Public Utilities Commission, 505 Van Ness Avenue, Room 2000, San Francisco, CA 94102, of any change of address to insure that they continue to receive documents. You must indicate the proceeding number on the service list on which your name appears.

The Commission's policy is to schedule hearings (meetings, workshops, etc.) in locations that are accessible to people with disabilities. To verify that a particular location is accessible, call: Calendar Clerk (415) 703-1203.

If specialized accommodations for the disabled are needed, e.g., sign language interpreters, those making the arrangements must call the Public Advisor at (415) 703-2074, TTY 1-866-836-7825 or (415) 703-5282 at least three working days in advance of the event.

I.00-11-001 MEG/jgo